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INSTRUCTIONS

TO YOUNG

DRAGOON OFFICERS.

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PREFACE.

THE great benefit the author of the following pages derived from the Remarks and Minutes he had collected, and which furniſh the materials of this work, firſt gave him the idea, that was every cornet, on joining his regiment, poſſeſt of ſimilar ones, he might derive the ſame advantages, and not be continually *bored* at the drill. The only means of making them eaſily attainable was by printing; he therefore determined to model them into the form of a book, and to publiſh it.

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CHAP. I.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

PREVIOUS to entering on the matter contained in the following pages, it will be neceſſary to give the young military reader ſome idea of the internal management and œconomy of a regiment, and particularly of its diſcipline, which I can only compare to a chain, any one link of which being broken, throws the whole into confuſion, and of courſe it becomes uſeleſs. It is therefore abſolutely neceſſary, that an implicit obedience be obſerved to all ſuperior officers; thus, the private ſoldier muſt obey the orders of the corporal, who muſt likewiſe ſubmit to thoſe of the ſergeant, and he again to the ſubalterns; and ſo on, from rank to rank, to the general.

A regiment is always commanded by the officer of ſuperior rank. It is divided into troops

troops or companies, commanded by captains. Theſe are again divided into ſquads, the command of which is given to the different non-commiſſioned officers, who are anſwerable for the appearance and conduct of them: and if they perceive any irregularities, they report them to the ſubalterns, who again report them to the captains.

The duty of the non-commiſſioned officers is to viſit the ſtables of their reſpective ſquads. Should any dragoon be abſent, or drunk, to report him to the quarter-maſter; whoſe immediate duty is the care of the horſes, the accounts of his troop, and other things, which ſhall be mentioned in their proper places. He is alſo to viſit the men's rooms, to ſee that they keep their arms and appointments clean; to inſpect their meſſes, reports of which are given weekly to the commanding officer. This is the chief TROOP DUTY of the non-commiſſioned officers.

The TROOP DUTY of the ſubalterns is to command and inſpect the non-commiſſioned officers and their ſquads; to attend to the feeding, ſhoeing and phyſicking of the horſes. Once a week, if not ordered oftener, each ſubaltern ſhould go round to the men's quarters; inſpect their rooms, arms and appointments; inquire how the men behave and conduct

conduct themſelves; report the quality of the hay and ſtable; alſo any irregularities he may have ſeen, to the officer commanding the troop. This is the principal duty for officers in their troop.

CHAP. II.

Of the Regimental Duty of Subaltern Officers.

A PAROLE, or watch-word, is given out commonly every day; as are alſo the orders of the commanding officer, and the detail of the duty of the regiment. The adjutant delivers out the orders, and keeps a regiſter or liſt of the officers' names, that he may readily ſee who ſtands firſt for any duty ordered. This liſt is called a *Roſter*.

The officers on the uſual daily duty, are as follows:

Orderly

Orderly officer.
Orderly quarter-maſter.
Orderly ſergeant.
Orderly trumpeter.
Officer
Sergeant
Corporal
Trumpeter } for guard.

Captains are frequently for duty, ſuch as guard, picket, and ſometimes orderly; but in quarters they are ſeldom for guard duty.

The orderly officer's duty, is to be always ready to attend the commanding officer, at a minute's warning; to viſit the ſick men and horſes; to parade, and diſmiſs all detachments, eſcorts, &c. In caſe of fire, he ſhould be ready to run to the place with the firſt men he can collect together; and whenever the alarm is ſounded, to run to the commanding officer's quarters, to receive his orders. He ſhould never be out of boots and ſpurs, but ready to mount his horſe at a moment's notice.

The officer of the guard, the ſergeant, and trumpeter, are always to remain with their guard till relieved.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Of the QUARTER-MASTER and his DUTY.

THIS is a moſt uſeful officer; and were it not for the duty done by the quarter-maſter, a ſubaltern's would be very ſevere and diſagreeable. To fill this poſt properly, he ſhould be an active, decently-educated, honeſt, ſober man. He ſhould be able to do the adjutant's duty, if required; for in our ſervice, when a regiment is diſperſed, as it is frequently nine months together, there is ſeldom more than one troop at a quarter, except at the head quarters, where may be two or three troops, and a detachment of all ſuch men, who from ill behaviour, or awkwardneſs, are aſſembled there, as well as recruits. It is therefore abſolutely neceſſary, that the quarter-maſter ſhould be ſufficiently capable of drilling the troop, leſt it return to the regiment in a worſe condition than it left it. He is alſo the proper perſon to tranſact the account buſineſs of his troop; to purchaſe

the forage, and, in ſhort, every article wanted by the dragoon or horſe. He is alſo the officer ſent to ſecure, and bargain for graſs, for thoſe horſes that are to be turned out. In executing this duty, he ought to be particularly careful, and to ſtate the exact quantity of the graſs, with the convenience or inconvenience of the watering places, and the ſtate of the mounds.

Thus having pointed out, in the ſhorteſt and beſt manner I can, the ſeveral duties of the ſubaltern officers, to whom this book is addreſs'd; I ſhall proceed to lay down, in a plain manner, ſuch inſtructions, as will enable them, with a little attention, to perform with eaſe, all that duty which muſt otherwiſe be learnt at drills.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

THE firſt object of every good ſoldier or officer is diſcipline, without which no regiment can poſſibly be called *good*. And this is only to be effected by an implicit obedience to ſuperiors, and a ſtrict attention to duty: I therefore recommend it to every young gentleman, on his entering the army, to apply himſelf to learn his buſineſs, which once learnt will prove very entertaining. A few weeks attention will, if he applies, make him maſter of it. He ſhould learn, not only to put the ſoldiers through the manual exerciſe, but ſhould perform it himſelf, in order the better to judge how the men acquit themſelves. He ſhould learn alſo to tell off a ſquadron, to ſalute, and take his poſt on parade. Theſe things known, when appointed to a troop, he ſhould be particularly attentive to that troop; viſit the men's quarters at leaſt once a week, and minutely inſpect their neceſſaries and appointments, and ſee that they keep their rooms or tents clean, which is abſolutely neceſſary for their health. He ſhould be very attentive to learn to ride, the good effects of which he will feel, when he takes his poſt in ſquadron.

CHAP. V.

Of the Private PARADE, &c.

THIS is a parade for the troop you belong to, half an hour before the *General.* The intention of it is for the officer to inſpect minutely the arms and dreſs of each man, that if any ſhould be drunk, or improperly dreſs'd, or not clean, he may confine him, and report him to the commanding officer. The method of parading is as follows. Give the word,

ATTENTION!

Call the Roll.

This is a liſt of the troop. Every man muſt be preſent, or accounted for. You proceed,

Rear Rank, to the Left, Face.

March.

When the right flanker of the rear rank is oppoſite the left flanker of the front rank, ſay,

Halt.

To the Right, Turn.

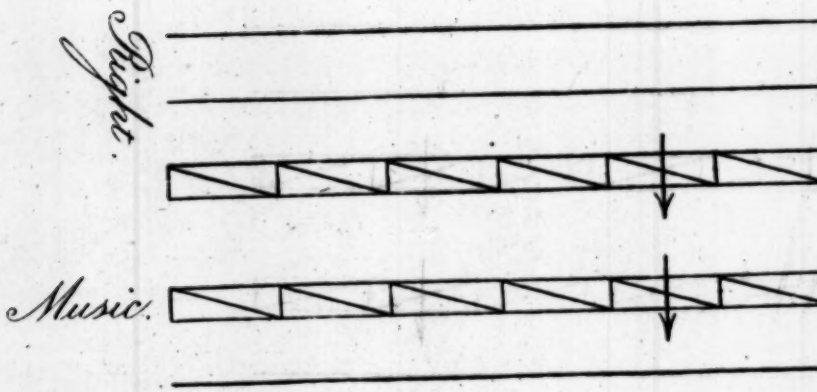
Eyes Right.

This

Plate I.

A Regiment Drawn up.

NB. When you are to Receive
should be on the Right



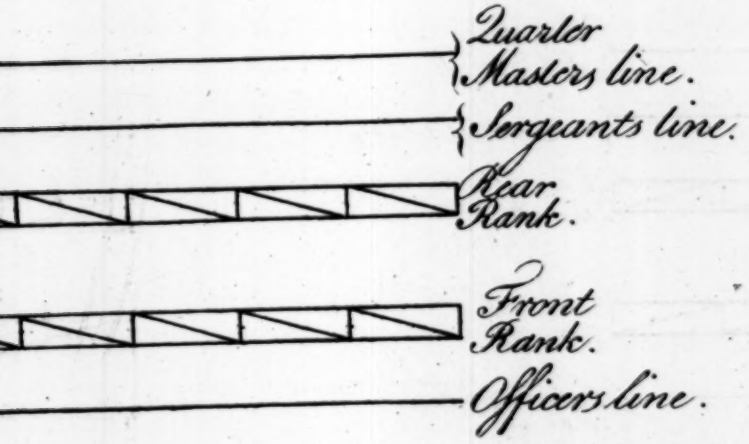
Band M

thus in the front when
common Morning

ate I.

n up, with Ranks open.

Receive the General your Music
Right of the Regiment.



Music.

t when on a
ning Parade.

This brings your rear rank up to the front, and you have a rank intire.

Open your Pans.
Slope your Arms.

You now eaſily examine every man's lock.

Carry your Arms.
Shut your Pans.
Fix your Bayonets.
Draw your Ramrods.

As you come oppoſite each man, he drops the ramrod into the piece, which if foul will not ring clear.

Unfix your Bayonets.
Shoulder your Arms.

You now proceed to examine the men's dreſs, and wait till the *Aſſembly* ſounds: You then form the troops in two ranks, and march to the general parade. *Note*, The men for guard ſhould march in your front, with arms advanced.

THE PARADE.

A regiment of dragoons, whether mounted or on foot, is always divided into ſquadrons of

of three troops each, as for example; a nine troop regiment has three ſquadrons, viz.

Right, Centre, Left } ſquadron.

A ſquadron * is likewiſe divided into three parts. The right ſquadron conſiſts of

On the right, the King's, or general's
Centre, lieutenant colonel's
Left, the fourth captain's
} troop.

Centre Squadron.

Right, the third captain's
Centre, ſenior captain's
Left, the ſixth captain's
} troop.

Left Squadron.

Right, the fifth captain's
Centre, the major's
Left, the ſecond captain's
} troop.

* The author was, at the time he wrote this part of the book, a ſubaltern in the King's Dragoon Guards, which was a nine troop Regiment, and drew up in the form here mentioned.

The

The captain-lieutenant commands the King's, or general's troop; the other troops are commanded by their reſpective captains, and the field officers' troops by lieutenants.

The regiment being drawn up in the before-mentioned form, the commanding officer gives the word,

PARADE!

This is a caution. The adjutant ſhould go to the Right of the regiment and dreſs it; which done, the next word is,

ATTENTION!

After this word, no man ſhould move head nor eye, till the next word of command,

Rear Rank, take open Order.

The man on the right of the rear rank ſhould then ſtep back two long paces, and face to the left, his right arm being extended, to ſhew he is the flanker. The next word is,

Quick March.

The whole rear rank then runs back, and dreſſes to the flanker. The officers come out two paces to the front. The ſergeants fall back two paces in the rear, and quarter-maſters

maſters two paces in the rear of the ſergeants. Every officer and man ſhould be perfectly ſteady.

This done, the guard (which is paraded by the officer for the day on the left of the regiment) is ordered to march off; the mode of doing which, as alſo of parading, will be ſhewn in another place.

The guard marched off the parade, the commanding officer orders the ranks to cloſe to the front or rear, when the officers fall back into their intervals, and he diſmiſſes them by facing to the right or left, or by wheeling the troops, or any manœuvre he pleaſes.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

How to parade, and march off the Guard, and to relieve the old Guard.

THE Guard, as I before ſaid, is paraded or examined by the officer for the day, in the ſame manner as your private parade, except that you firſt ſhould ſize your guard, by putting the talleſt men on the flanks. The guard is drawn up in one entire rank. This finiſhed, you tell the guard off into two diviſions, of which the ſecond is to form the rear rank. When in one rank, the men ſtand, arms advanced; the *Troop* is then ſounded, on which the officer comes to the front of the guard, four paces from the front rank, and gives the word,

Shoulder your Arms.

He faces to the right about. When ordered to march off, he gives the word,

Guard, by two Diviſions, to the Right, Wheel.

March.

He ſalutes the commanding officer, and when clear of the parade,

Quick March.

When he comes within twenty paces of the guard he is to relieve,

Halt.

March.

To the Front, Form.

Halt.

The officer of the old guard, as ſoon as the new is formed to the front,

Old Guard, preſent your Arms.

New Guard, preſent your Arms.

The officers ſalute, and receive the report, parole, &c. Sergeants do the ſame in the rear.

Old Guard, Shoulder your Arms.

New Guard, Shoulder your Arms.

The corporals then number the guard, and take off the relief. When they return with the ſentinels, the old guard marches off in ſlow time, the new guard preſenting arms to them. When they are clear, the new guard take up their ground, and you remain till relieved.

* It is underſtood, that when not ordered to *march in quick time*, the word *March* implies ordinary or ſlow time, 75 ſteps, 32 inches each, in a minute.

IN-

INTRODUCTION

TO

MANOEUVRES.

THE foregoing part of this work is intended to inſtruct the young officer in the part of his duty required in quarters: it is equally neceſſary that he ſhould underſtand the buſineſs of the field; this is generally learnt by continual practice; but from not comprehending the principles on which the different manœuvres are made, it is a long time before an officer can poſſibly be expected to be maſter of it. Let the cleverest man of any other profeſſion be put to the command of a ſquadron or a diviſion, the technical terms neceſſarily made uſe of by the exerciſing officer to make known his orders, would appear to him an unintelligible jargon; but when once the officer is perfectly acquainted with the principle on which a few of the moſt difficult columns are executed, which are ſo very eaſy and clear, that they

are within the comprehenſion of the moſt uncultivated mind, he will find that he can not only execute any manœuvre whatever, with the greateſt facility and exactneſs, but may, with a very little attention, ſoon qualify himſelf to exerciſe a regiment. The author has therefore ſelected a ſet of manœuvres, which he hopes will fully anſwer the purpoſe before alluded to; to each of which he has, to the beſt of his abilities, given inſtructions for the execution of it, and an explanatory plate. The firſt thing to be done before the regiment leaves the parade, mounted or not, is to tell it off, that is, to ſubdivide each ſquadron into a number of diviſions, in order to give the maſs ſufficient flexibility to turn in as ſhort a ſpace as poſſible, that like a ſnake, it may be able to twiſt and turn itſelf through any defile, or any other obſtructions.

N. B. A regiment of cavalry conſiſts of ſquadrons, an infantry regiment conſiſts of battalions, which are told much in the ſame manner as a ſquadron, though not into ſo many parts as the unwieldineſs of the horſe renders it neceſſary to have in a ſquadron.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

To tell off the Squadron.*

A SQUADRON is told in the following tellings:

By Files.
Fours.
Half ranks, or two diviſions.
Quarter ranks.
(A) Troops, or three diviſions.
(A) Subdiviſion of troop, or ſections.
Four centre files.
Centre file of half ſquadron.

As for example. Suppoſe a ſquadron to conſiſt of forty-two files. After telling themſelves by files, which is done by placing the ſtandard in the centre, who ſays Right; the two men on his right and left ſay Left; the next two, Right, and ſo alternately.

* The only difference in telling off the ſquadron diſmounted, is, that the ſtandard is then ſent to the centre of the regiment.

A regiment of four troops only, had better be formed into two ſquadrons of two troops each; in which caſe the two *tellings* marked with (A) (A) muſt be omitted.

You

You then tell them by Fours.* There are ten fours in forty-two, and two over. It is a general rule, that in telling off a ſquadron or regiment, you muſt always place the greateſt number on the flank. The reaſon is, as a column may be formed on one of theſe diviſions, to paſs a narrow place, where a large number has paſſed, a ſmaller can follow. You ſee therefore, as there are ten diviſions of four men in forty-two, and two men over, it will be proper to put the two over men into one of the diviſions of fours, as two would be too ſmall a diviſion; and according to the rule before laid down, the flanks are the places to tell them in. You muſt therefore begin on the right, (for in all telling, except by files, you begin on the right) and ſay, *Right of Fours*, and tell on, 2, 3, 4, 5, to the fifth man. You then ſay, *Left*. You then ſay to the next, *Right of Fours*, 2, 3, 4; and now to the fourth man you ſay *Left*; and ſo proceed till you come to the fifth man from the left, whom you tell is *Right of fours*. The left man of the ſquadron muſt be the left of every telling.

Your next telling is of two diviſions, or half rank, or half ſquadron. This is merely

* The light dragoons tell off by threes inſtead of fours; they jokingly ſay, a heavy troop horſe's long tail requires the breadth of an additional horſe.

dividing

dividing the whole into two equal parts, *viz.* twenty-one in each telling. The man on the right of each twenty-one will be the right of two diviſions, half rank, or half ſquadron. Quarter ranks are next to be conſidered, and they are formed by ſubdividing the half rank, or dividing the whole into four parts. Three diviſions, or troops, then follow, after which ſubdiviſions of troops. You muſt begin with the large number, and then ſubdivide it.

Having told off the ſquadron and proved it, by calling each telling thus. Right files. Left files.

Right of fours.
Left of ditto.
Right of half ranks, or ſquadrons.
Left of ditto.
Right of quarter ranks.
Left of ditto.
Right of three diviſions.
Left of ditto.
Right of ſubdiviſions, or ſections.
Left of ditto, four center file. Centre file of half ſquadron.

The officers muſt be then poſted, which is explained in the next chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Of poſting Officers in Squadron.*

IF a ſquadron is complete in officers, there ſhould be nine; three quarter-maſters, who not being told in as files, muſt act with the officers: having therefore twelve officers, they ſhould be poſted in the following manner.

The eldeſt in rank to command the ſquadron.

The next ditto - - - { the right quarter rank.

The next - - - - - - { the left quarter rank.

The next - - - - - - { the ſecond quarter rank.

The next - - - - - - { the third quarter rank.

The eldeſt cornet carries the ſtandard, the officers commanding the flank quarter ranks, ſhould be covered by officers. The ſtandard and the 2d and 3d quarter rank officers,

* A ſquadron is three troops, but one regiment alone at exerciſe, manœuvres its troops as ſquadrons, and are then called ſquadrons.

ſhould

ſhould be covered by the three quarter-maſters, who are, when the officers move out in front of the ſquadron, (as when at open order) to move up into the interval they left.* The remaining officer leads to the rear, and is always in the third or ſupernumerary rank. Sergeants ſhould be poſted in the front rank of their reſpective troops, on the flanks and center, covered by the corporals, except in the center troop of the ſquadron, in the center of which two ſergeants ſhould be poſted, ſo as to flank the ſtandard as a reſerve, or guard to it, and conſequently ſhould never quit it; for if a ſquadron in purſuit, or by any accident ſhould be broken, they are the rallying point, ſhewing the front alſo to which they are to form: another advantage derived from poſting ſergeants as above, is, ſhould it be neceſſary to manœuvre by half ſquadrons, you have ſergeants on your flanks, who, being the moſt intelligent perſons, are the propereſt to be there.†

* In the infantry the covering ſergeants do this, but as in the cavalry the ſergeants are told in as files, the quarter-maſters are as properly poſted thus, as in the rear of the ſquadron.

† The ſergeants muſt not remain thus poſted, after the regiment is diſmounted; they muſt then poſt themſelves as directed in the orders and regulations given out at the war office: this may be eaſily done, as the regiment goes about after linking.

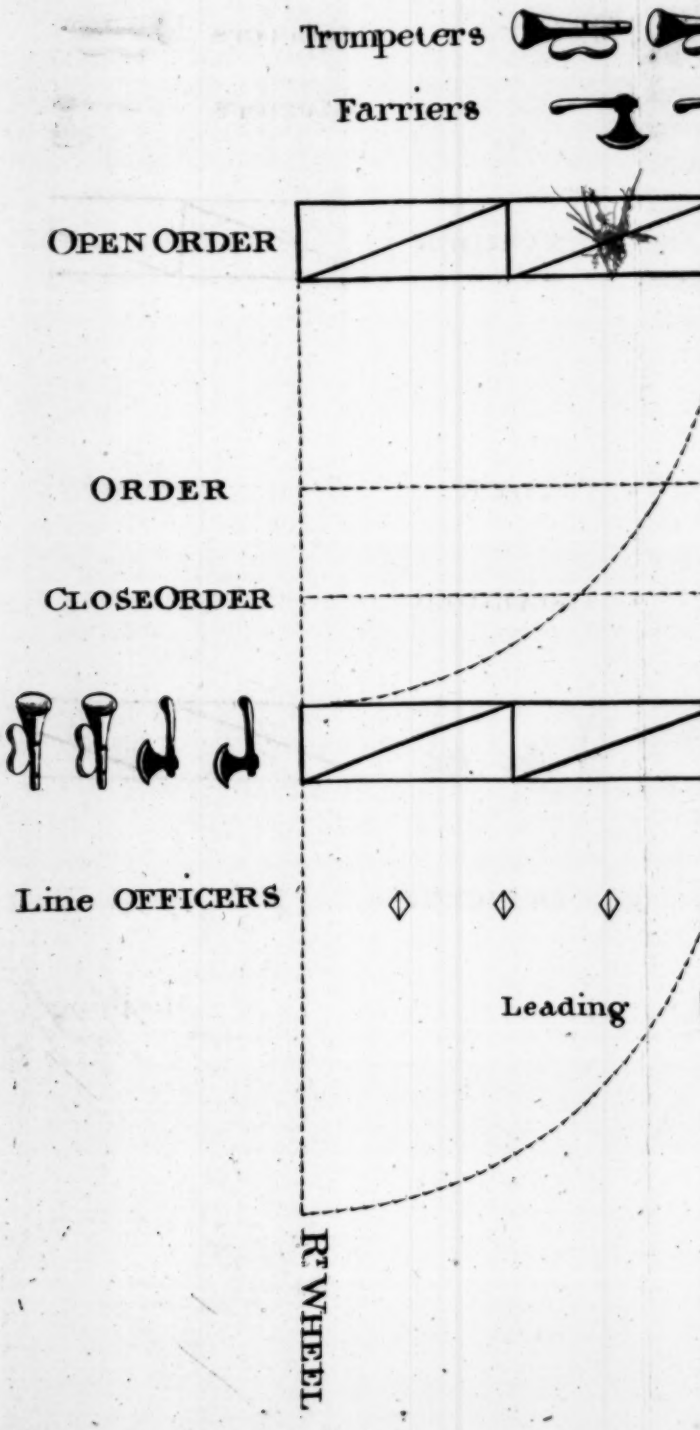
As it ſeldom happens that a ſquadron has nine officers with it in the field, beſides quarter-maſters, it may not be improper to point out the moſt neceſſary poſts in ſquadron to be officered: the quarter-maſters ſhould invariably be poſted as before remarked, in the center, and on the right and left of the two center quarter ranks.

The moſt uſeful and neceſſary poſts appear to be on the flanks (in the front rank) of the quarter ranks, that officers may not only command, but animate the dragoons by their example; the command of the ſquadron, and the four quarter ranks, ſhould abſolutely be the poſts for the officers; a ſingle regiment however, generally manœuvres by ſome ſmaller diviſion than a real ſquadron, who, in that caſe, are called ſquadrons; by troops for example, into which they break at the pleaſure of the exerciſing officer: after having performed a few manœuvres in real ſquadrons; it will be then proper to ſend the officers with their reſpective troops, except the ſtandard cornet, who, though he may not belong to the center troop, muſt nevertheleſs not quit it.

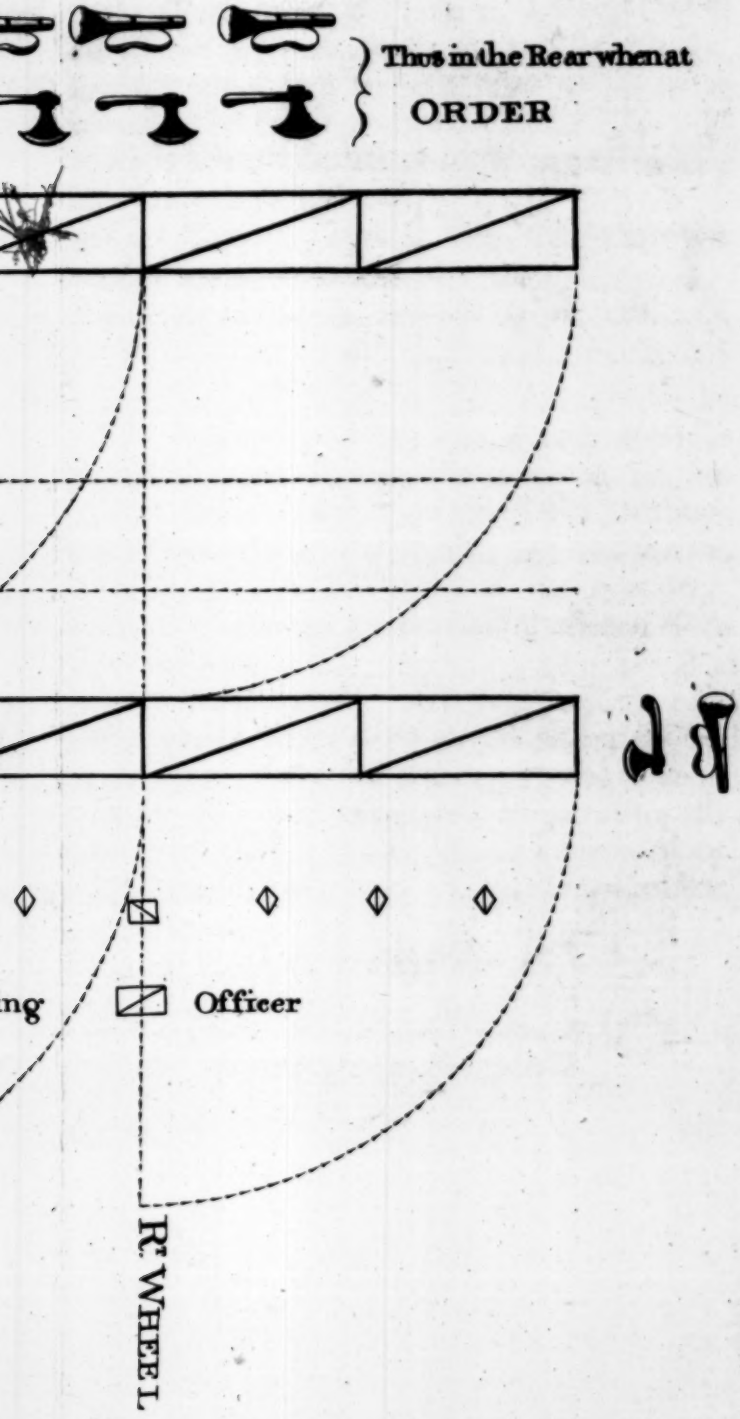
The horſe evolutions ſhould be learnt ſo perfect as to recollect the ſucceſſion in which they come. They are at full length at the end of the next chapter, which treats of the regiment mounted in the field. CHAP.

Plate

A Squadron at Open Orde



Order, with other distances Marked.



CHAP. VIII.

The Regiment mounted in the Field.

THE WORD OF COMMAND is given throughout by the exerciſing officer. The line ſhould be well dreſs'd to the right; the officer a horſe's length in the front of the ſquadron.

Rear Rank, cloſe to the Croup.

Officers then go to the right about.

Tell off the Squadron.

When the ſquadron is told off,

Rear Rank, rein back to ORDER.

Officers again come to right about. It is here proper to make ſome obſervations on the opening of the ranks, and the diſtance each opening ſhould have. There are four diſtances, *viz.*

OPEN ORDER.
ORDER.
CLOSE ORDER.
CLOSE TO THE CROUP.

At *Open Order*, the rear rank ſhould be as far diſtant from the front as half its length, becauſe they will require that diſtance in wheeling by half ſquadrons. (*Vide Plate II.*)

At *Order*, the diſtance is equal to one fourth; or quarter rank.

Cloſe Order, a horſe's length, ſo that you may wheel by fours.

Cloſe by the Croup, as cloſe as you can.

Draw your Swords.

The reviewing officer then comes oppoſite to the centre, in the front, when all the officers ſalute him together. The reviewing officer having paſſed through the ranks, takes his poſt in the front of the regiment. The commanding, or exerciſing officer, then gives the word.

Ranks, by Subdiviſions, to the Right, take Ground.

March.

The leading officer of the ſquadron, when he has brought the rear of his ſquadron on the ground where his right ſtood, orders,

Subdiviſions, to the left, Wheel, and form, forward.

He

He continues moving, and when near enough, wheels the ſquadron to the left, and the regiment marches paſt the reviewing officer in the following order: Firſt, by ſquadrons, in *Open Order*. Farriers gallop out to the front of the officers; and trumpeters in the rear of the farriers.

The ſquadron continues marching, dreſſing to its centre, till within ten paces of the General; the officer then ſays,

Eyes Right.

Officers ſalute together, taking time from the leading officer, who is advanced in the front. At dropping the point of the ſword, the officers all look well to the right. When the ſquadron has paſſed about fifty yards, it wheels to the left by word of command, and at fifty yards more, wheels again to the left. The commanding officer of the firſt ſquadron then gives the word,

By Troops, to the Front, form your March.

The right troop trots forward; the centre troop obliques to the right, and covers the right troop; the left troop does the ſame.

The other ſquadrons do exactly as the right did. They trot forward in a line parallel to that on which they firſt formed, and when the head of the column, or right troop, comes oppoſite their ground, it wheels to the left;

left; the others do the ſame. When on the ground they firſt wheel'd on in ſquadron, it again wheels to the left. The wheel compleated, it files to the front by ranks from the right or left, according as it is ſized; the other copying it exactly in the following order:

Farrier,
Trumpeter,
Captain,
Lieutenant,
Cornet,
Quarter-maſter,
} a good horſe length apart.

Front rank, and rear rank, follow.

You ſhould be careful to advance a good way to the right of the General before you form your troop, that you may not hinder the others from filing off, who ſhould always form upon the ſame ground you did, taking care to move off as ſoon as formed. You continue moving very ſlowly to the front, halting frequently, as you will obſerve the length of time for every troop to file off is very great. But note, the ſtandards are always to be eſcorted by two ſergeants in the above-mentioned filing. When the three troops compoſing your ſquadron are formed, the word will be,

Troops,

Troops, to the left Wheel, and form Squadron, Halt.

The other troops form in the rear of your ſquadron, forming ſquadron as they come up. When all the ſquadrons are formed, you march on, the firſt, or right ſquadron, not wheeling, till it has brought its left flank on the ſame ground which the left flank of the left ſquadron firſt ſtood on. It then wheels, the other ſquadrons wheeling on the ſame ground. The commanding officer then obſerving when the ſquadrons are on their reſpective places, with their left flanks where they firſt ſtood, gives the word,

Squadrons to Left, Wheel, and form Line.

Return Swords.

File to Diſmounting Diſtance.

On which the right ſquadron files to the left, the left ſquadron to the right, till they come within ten yards of the centre ſquadron.

Prepare to Diſmount.

Officers paſs to the flank of the ſquadron and diſmount with the men. Left files then rein back, the right remaining perfectly ſteady till the ſignal from the *Fugal Man.* The whole then proceed to diſmount.

N. B. The method of diſmounting is only to be learnt by practice.

When

When all are down, which is done regularly by ſignals, the men hang their ſwords * on their ſaddles, take down their firelocks, and come up to the interval they reined back from.

Link your Horſes.

You go to the right about by ſignal. The horſes linked, you remain facing them, arms trailed, and dreſs'd to the right.

To the Right About.

The whole ſtep their right legs back. At the word,

Face,

all come about.

Quick March.

Form Squadron. *(Vide Plate.)*

Rear rank run round the flank of the front rank of horſes, and form in the rear of the front rank, who are to take very ſhort paces till the ſquadron is formed.

Form Battalion.

Flank ſquadrons oblique inwards. Standards run to the centre of the regiment.

* In the light dragoons, the men only alter the manner of wearing the ſword by raiſing it a little, and place the hilt flat to the body, under the belt.

Halt.

Pla

Gener

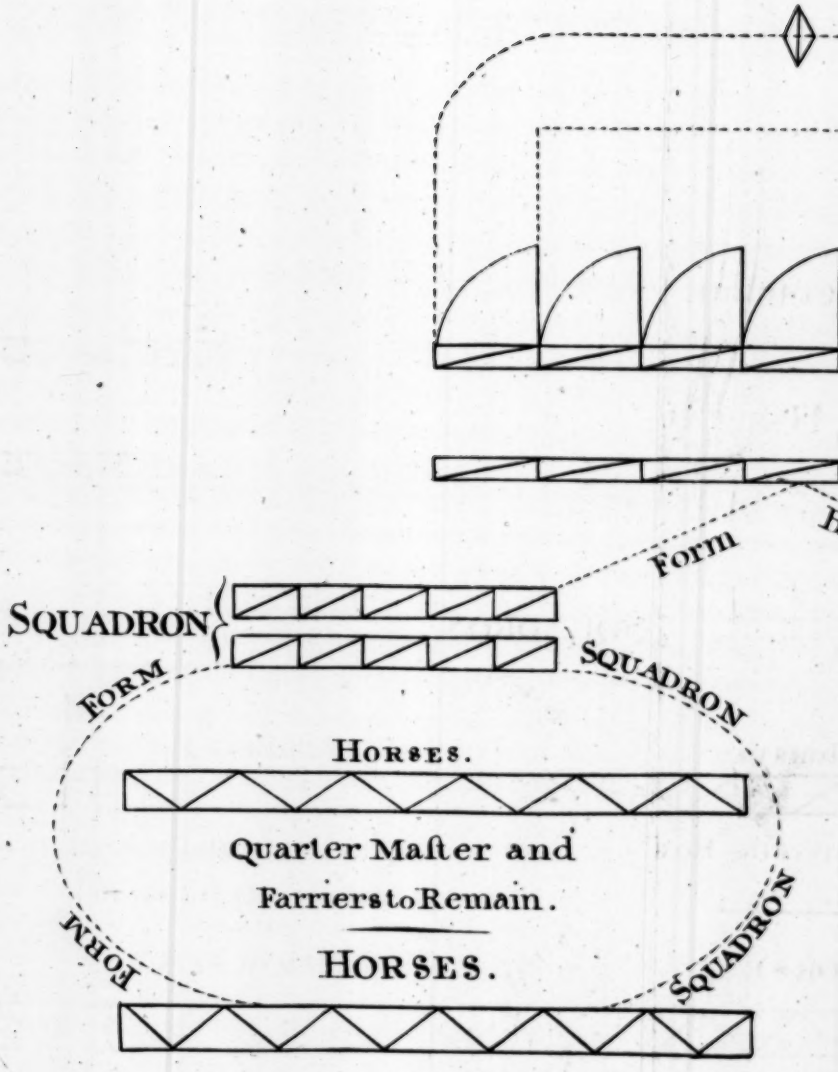
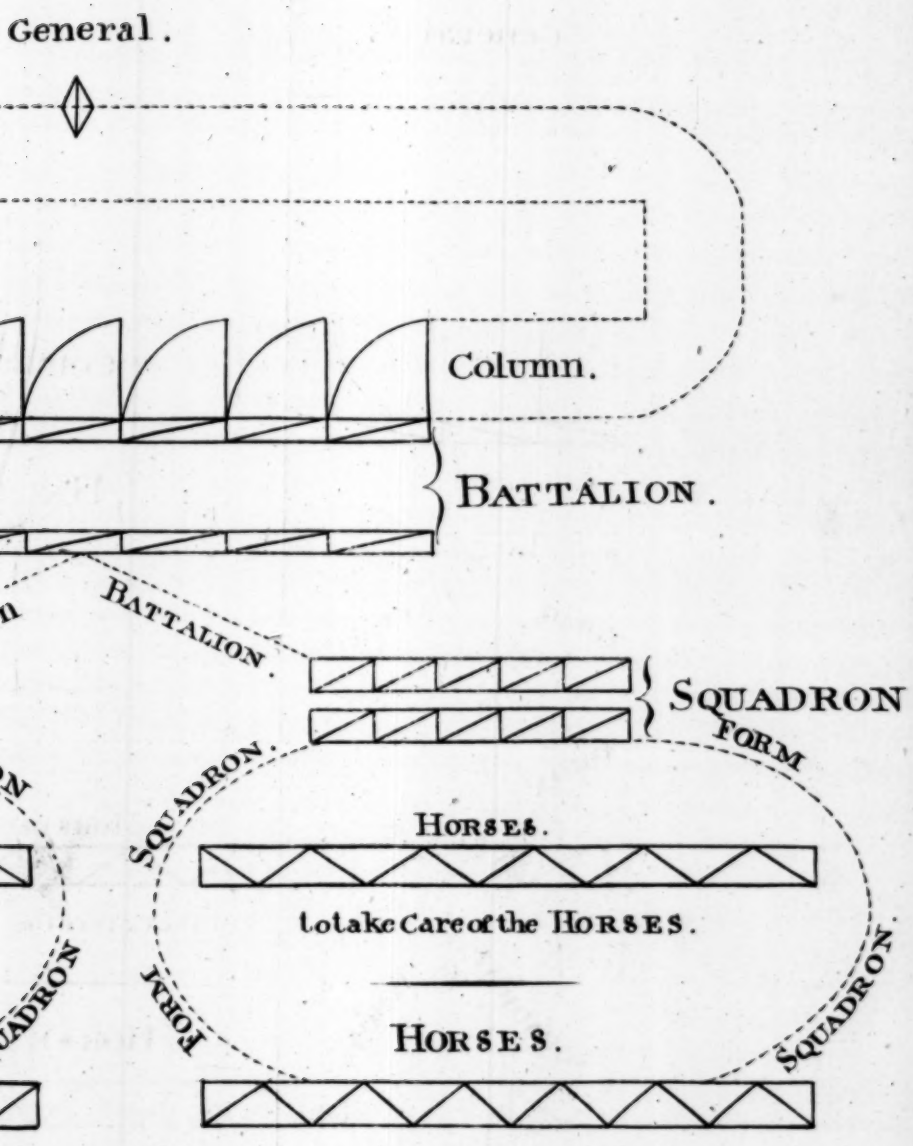

Form
SQUADRON
FORM
SQUADRON
HORSES.
Quarter Master and
Farriers to Remain.
HORSES.
FORM
SQUADRON

Plate III.


General.
Column.
BATTALION.
BATTALION.
SQUADRON
FORM
SQUADRON.
HORSES.
to take Care of the HORSES.
HORSES.
FORM
SQUADRON.

Halt. *Dreſs.*

At the word Halt, the men drop the but of their arms on the ground, and handle immediately.

Fix Bayonets.

Shoulder Arms.

Battalion will move forward.

March.

Open Ranks.

Officers come out in the front.

Halt. *Preſent Arms.*

At the laſt motion of the preſent, Officers look to the centre. Muſic plays the March, and on the repetition, officers ſalute together.

Shoulder your Arms.

Officers recover their ſwords,

March.

Rear Rank, Cloſe to the Front.

* *By Grand Diviſions, to the Right, Wheel.*

Halt. *Dreſs.*

† *Quick March.*

Head

* Grand diviſions are half ſquadrons.

† The grand diviſions having wheeled to the right, are thus thrown into column with the right in front.

Head of the Column. *Halt.*
Left, Wheel. *March.*
Head of the Column. *Left, Wheel.*
Halt. *Slow March.*
Open Ranks.

March by. Officers ſalute. They march by alſo in quick time by troops, carrying arms to the General.

When the exerciſing officer has formed the battalion, which he does by wheeling the diviſions to the left;

March, Open your Ranks.
Halt. *Dreſs.*
Unfix your Bayonets.
Officers take poſt in the Rear of the Battalion.
Slow March.

At a field-day, or review, the regiment goes through the ſame manœuvres on foot as an infantry regiment, and ought to do them as well. When their foot buſineſs is over, they go to their horſes, are mounted, and then

They continue moving to that front, a certain length of ground, about as much as the regiment occupies in line, then comes the caution to the head of the column, which direction they continue, forming thus a right angle; then another caution and a wheel will bring the column on the ſame line the reviewing officer ſtands on.

perform

perform their horſe-evolutions, which are as follows.

HORSE EVOLUTIONS.

Half Ranks, to the Right, Double.

Quarter Ranks, to the Right, Double.

Quarter Ranks that Doubled, as you were.

Half Ranks that Doubled as you were.

(The ſame to the Left.)

By two Diviſions, wheel to the Right and Left outwards.

Wheel inwards to your former Front.

The Line moves forward, and on the March the Rear Rank moves forward to Order.

Subdiviſions of Troops, by Ranks, Right Wheel.
(Bugle to form)*

Subdiviſions of Troops, by Ranks, Left Wheel.
(Bugle to form)

* Regiments who have bugle horns uſe them to ſound ſignals for the formation of the line.

Subdiviſions of Troops, by Ranks, Right about Wheel. (Bugle to form)

From the Right of Quarter Ranks, by Ranks, file to the Front. (Form by Bugle)

From the Left of Quarter Ranks, by Ranks, file to the Rear. (Ditto to form)

The Line moves forward, and on the March to Cloſe Order.

By Subdiviſions, to the Right Wheel. (Both Ranks Wheeling, Bugle to form)

By Subdiviſions, Left Wheel. (Ditto to form)

From the Right of Squadrons, by Subdiviſions, to the Front form Column. (Ditto to form)

From the Left of Squadrons, by Subdiviſions, to the Rear form Column. (Ditto to form)

By Files from the Centre of Squadron, form Column to the Front. (Bugle to form)

By Files, from the Flanks of Squadrons to the Centre, form Column to the Rear. (ditto)

From the Flanks of Squadrons, file to the Front. (dittto)

From the Flanks of ſquadrons, file to the Rear. (ditto)

Squadrons, to the Right, Wheel. Right, Wheel. Right about, Wheel.

The

The ſame, to the Left.

To the Right, Wheel the Circle.

The ſame, to the Left.

On the four Centre File of the Line, form Column to the Front. (Bugle)

From the Flanks of the Line to the Centre, form Column to the Rear. (ditto)

CHAP. X.

Of Columns.*

THE principles for cavalry and infantry, muſt be as analagous as the nature of the two arms will admit; the ſame words of command, and methods of formation and movement, ſhould as far as *poſſible* be adopted, and take place in the ſeparate and combined manœuvres: the great advantages thence ariſing are obvious. Vide Dundas, p. 22.

* A column is any number of ſeparate bodies placed in a continued line behind, and covering each other. Vide Dundas, p. 69.

The

The author has endeavoured to adopt the above maxim in the inſtructions for the execution and formation of the following columns and deployments into line; he was at the time he collected the matter, from which he was enabled to form this little work, Aid du Camp to a General officer in the Britiſh ſervice, of great celebrity, and of tried and approved ſkill: each of the following manœuvres was practiſed by the camp under his command, and executed as near "as the nature of the arms would admit," in the manner herein directed.

It is impoſſible to go on a ſtraight line from one ſtation to another, without taking ſome intervening mark, which muſt be always kept in a line with the object you wiſh to go to. The irregularity which a *Squadron of Direction** would cauſe in a line, by not preſerving the exacteſt uniformity of pace, and by not going immediately ſtraight, is not to be conceived but by thoſe who have witneſſed it; it is therefore abſolutely neceſſary that officers

* No line, horſe or infantry, can move with any ſort of preciſion, without relying on ſome ſmall portion of it, to direct and regulate the movement: in cavalry, it is generally a ſquadron, on whom all the others depend, both as to the pace of the movement and direction. This is called the ſquadron of direction.

ſhould

ſhould underſtand the method of taking objects to march on, which is done in the following way.

An officer intends marching ſtraight to a caſtle, church, or any determined and fixed object, as far off as he can ſee; this he keeps conſtantly in his eye, and at the ſame time obſerves ſome *intervening object*, ſuch as a buſh, &c. which he always keeps in a line with the firſt object: thus, as long as he keeps theſe two objects covering exactly, he may be certain that he is going ſtraight.

There are two general rules, *viz.* when the right of the line forms the front, or head of the column, the left flank of that column ſhould cover; becauſe, to reform the line, the diviſions muſt wheel to the left, and it will always happen that troops will not be equally ſtrong. Sickneſs, death, and many other accidents will occur, to weaken one troop more than another; therefore the only means of counteracting the irregularity of numbers, is the attention to the exact covering of the pivot files, and the diſtance or interval between diviſions in open column. As therefore the left flank of the column muſt cover, having the right in front; the right flank muſt cover when the left or rear is in front.

The

The next rule is, all changes from line into column, muſt be done by filing * from the flank.

Columns are formed on any telling of the line, according to the nature of the defile they are to paſs.

Whilſt the † open column is in motion, officers ſhould be at the pivot flanks of the diviſions they command; in cloſe column a ſmall ſpace between each diviſion. Were they cloſe up, it would impede the movements of the column. In open column the interval or ſpace between each ſhould be equal to the front of the diviſion, otherwiſe it could not wheel into line.

As this work is intended to refer to the buſineſs of a regiment mounted, it is to be obſerved, that there is generally a ſpace between each ſquadron equal to its front; this ſpace muſt be preſerved in open column. It is the only *material* difference there is between the method of manœuvring a foot and horſe column.

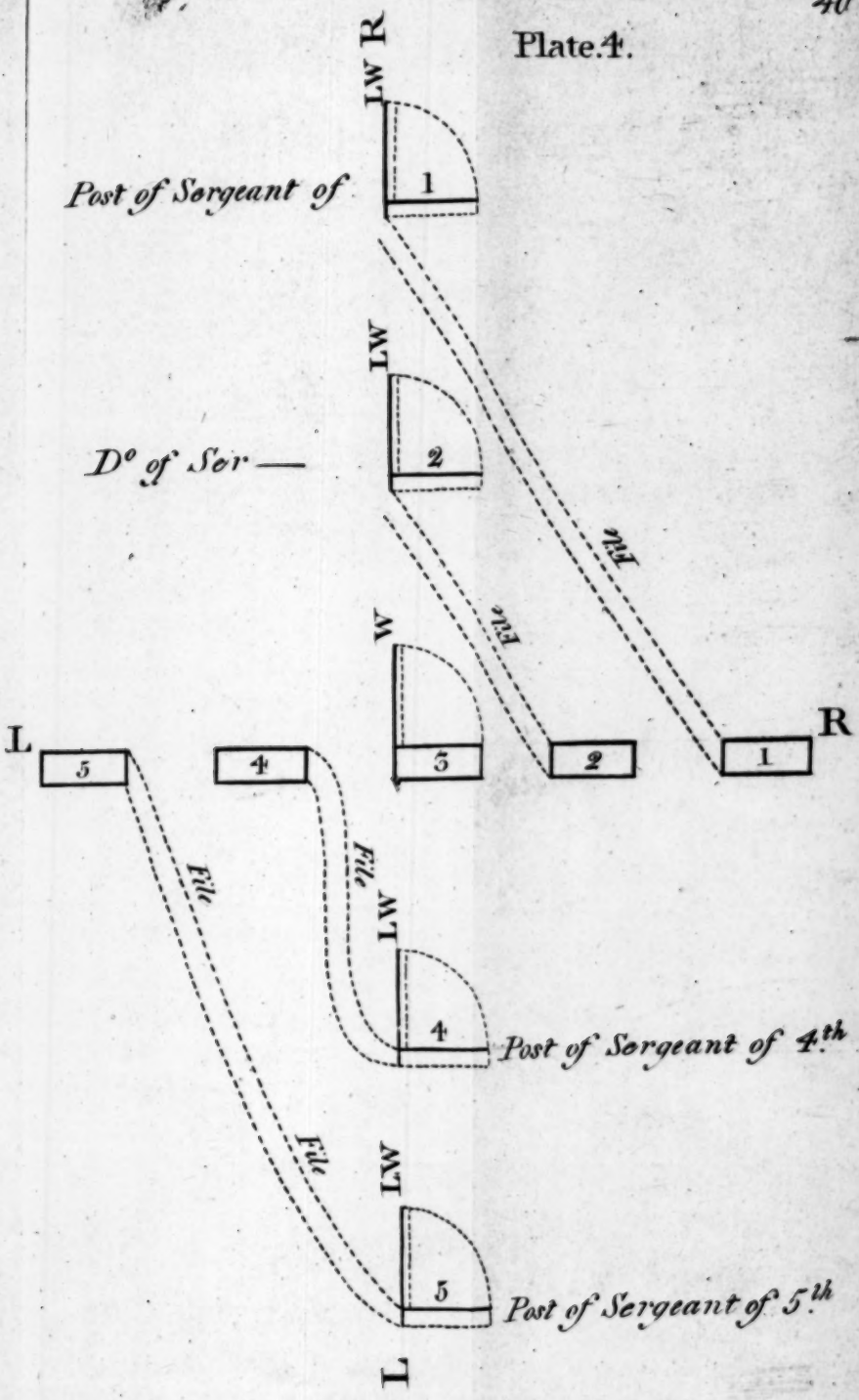
A mounted column may have occaſion to retreat in the ſame direction it advanced on: as the leading diviſion will be the firſt who

* Vide Dundas, p. 70 to 73.

† This explanation is adapted to movements of column on foot.

feels,

Plate. 4.


LW R
Post of Sergeant of
1
LW
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R
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4
3
2
1
File
File
LW
4
Post of Sergeant of 4th
File
LW
5
Post of Sergeant of 5th
L

feels the check, the method they take of going about ſhould be followed by the whole; in ſhort as the firſt is the leading * and the directing diviſion, whatever he does, the ſucceeding ones ſhould repeat, † and the officer ſhould take care to ſpeak loud and clear, ſo that thoſe in the rear may hear him, and repeat to their reſpective ſquadrons his orders.

Columns may be formed on either of the flanks, or on any other given ſquadron of the line.

EXAMPLE I.

Suppoſe a line compoſed of five ſquadrons at exerciſe, in all the following examples.

WORD OF COMMAND.

On the Third Squadron of the Line the Right in front, to the Front Form open Column.

March.

The third is the centre one of the line, conſequently the 1ſt and 2d compoſe the right, and the 4th and 5th the left.

As the column is ordered to be formed on the 3d ſquadron, it muſt (as muſt all others

* In column the leading diviſion is always that of direction. Vide Dundas, p. 24.

† General Dundas directs the officer commanding a column to be at the head of it.

in a ſimilar caſe * that is, being the given ſquadron, or that on which the others are to form) ſtand faſt.

The next conſideration is, the right flank is ordered to be in front: to arrive therefore at their proper deſtinations, the ſquadrons on the right muſt file from the left to front of the 3d ſquadron, and thoſe on the left to the rear of it. The word of command for the officers to their reſpective ſquadrons will be, for thoſe on the right,

From the Left File to the Front. *March.*

For thoſe on the left,

From the Right, File to the Rear. *March.*

Taking care to cover each other, and the *third ſquadron* in the rear, as do alſo the right, in the front of it.

METHOD OF FORMATION.

The Firſt general rule muſt now be practiſed, the right is in front; the left flank of the column muſt cover, being the pivot.

In the word of command from the exerciſing officer, he pauſes at the word column, when a ſergeant* from each diviſion trots

* No ſergeant can cover or dreſs by any ſingle object, he has two however, the pivot files, of the front and rear ranks of the given ſquadron, and he ſhould be taught the method of taking objects.

briſkly

briſkly off to the front or rear, according to the flank he comes from, and places himſelf at a proper diſtance * from, and covering exactly the left flank of the third or given ſquadron; each officer then conducts his ſquadron to the ſergeant, thoſe on the left going behind their ſergeant till the left flank is up to him.

Theſe ſame rules and directions will hold good for the formation of the column, on any other ſquadron having the right in front.

If the left is in front, the ſame direction reverſed will do.

How to reduce the Column formed on the Third Diviſion by forming the Rank to its Front, or Rear.

To reform the line to its front is a very eaſy operation, and is thus done:

Form cloſe Column.

Halt. †

To the Front form the Line.

To form cloſe column, is to cloſe up to the front ſquadron till your front rank is at about cloſe order from the rear rank, the officer being on its flank.

* Vide firſt general rule, p. 39.

† This word if the column is in motion.

FORMATION.

To form the line: the ſquadron of the right, file to right, going perfectly ſtraight, till they come oppoſite its ground, it then halts.

To the Left turn forward. Left, Dreſs. Halt. Eyes Front.

This is the operation of the ſquadron on the right of the centre or third ſquadron, and which moves gently on as ſoon as the right are clear of him, till he has taken up the ground, on which the head of the column firſt ſtood.*

The operations of the left are the ſame as thoſe of the right, the words of command being reverſed.

The adjutant and a ſergeant ſhould, on the word *line*, from the exerciſing officer, go to the flank and aline themſelves with the head of the column, to mark the new point of alinement.

Should it be neceſſary to form the line to the rear, wheel the ſquadron to the right

* He ſhould ſend off a ſergeant to take up the ground, on which the officer who commands the centre ſquadron ſtood, in order to mark the ground which he is to move up to.

about,

about, and then the operation is the ſame as above deſcribed, having the left in front.

This example will ſuffice to ſhew the nature of columns, with *the Right in Front.*

Columns having the left in front are worked on the ſame principle, the rules and directions being the reverſe of thoſe for the right in front, as for example.

* A column with the right in front, covers on the left flank, that by wheeling the ſquadrons to the left, they may reform the line to its proper front, therefore a column led by the left, or having the left in front, muſt cover on the right flank, becauſe to reform the line, the ſquadrons muſt wheel to the right.

EXAMPLE II.

On the Centre Squadron of Line to Front form open Column. †

March.

FORMATION.

The centre ſquadron at the word *march*, moves forward gently. The ſquadrons on the right file to the left, thoſe on the left file to the right, and move on in that direction.

* See plate firſt, L W.
† Vide plate ſecond.

The

The two ſquadrons on the right and left of the centre one, the right however immediately following it, as ſoon as it comes on the ground the centre ſtood on, turns to the right and moves on, after it. The fourth ſquadron moves on filing to the rear of the ſecond, till his leading file covers the right flank, it then turns to the left and follows; the other ſquadrons right and left, alternatively follow in the ſame manner, till the whole are in column.

This column is reduced by firſt forming cloſe column, and then, when ordered to form line, the right ſquadron file to the right, the left, to the left, till oppoſite their proper front, then turn to the front, trot up briſkly, dreſs by the centre; who *Halts* at the word *Line:* The officers as ſoon as their ſquadron are formed order,

Eyes Centre!

EXAMPLE III. *

A cloſe column with the right in front, comes on ground, where ſome obſtacle, moraſs, or wood, or river, immediately on the left flank, occaſions the impoſſibility of deploying

* Vide Plate the third.

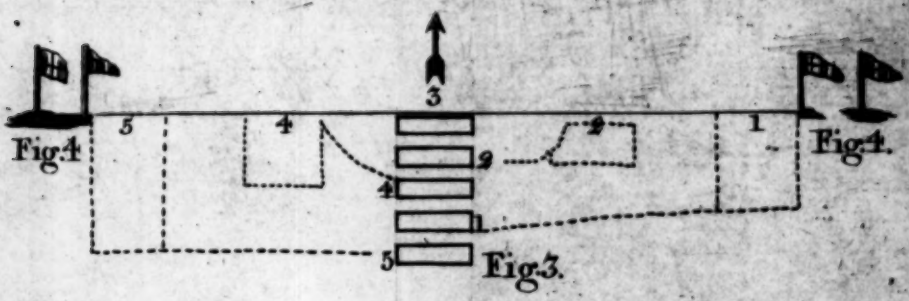
to

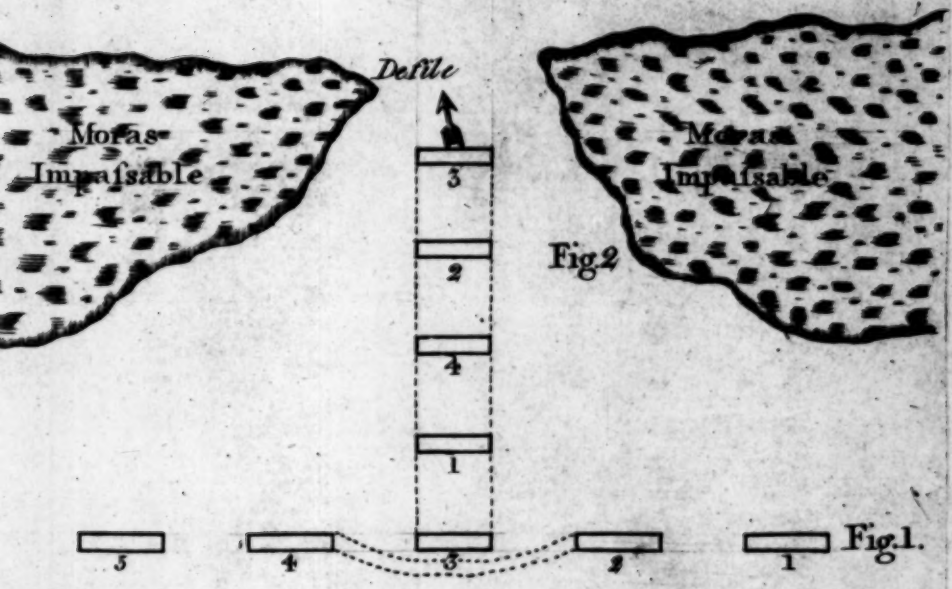
Fig.4

Fig
Fig
Fig
Fig

Plate. 5.

New Alignment & Developement of Col.n





Reference.

Fig.1.st *Original Position*

Fig.2.d *Second D.o or Open Column*

Fig.3.d *Third D.o or Close Column*

Fig.4.th *New Points of Alignment*

to that flank, yet it is abſolutely neceſſary to form the line to the front.

WORD OF COMMAND.

On the Rear Squadron of the Column to the Front form the Line.

FORMATION.

Every ſquadron, but left or rear of the column, files to the right. * The rear ſquadron, when the others are quite clear of it, moves gently on, taking up, and waiting for each ſquadron, ſucceſſively to form the line, till it comes on the ground, the leading or head column ſtood firſt on.

The adjutant takes care to gallop to the right, to mark the point of alinement for the right flank.

EXAMPLE IV.

Suppoſe the enemy is advancing on the rear of the right flank, you wiſh to ſhew him a front, to check him, or to fight him if neceſſary.

* It is recommended in ſuch caſes, always to file by double files.

WORD OF COMMAND.

On the Center Squadron, the Right in Front, to the Rear *form open Column! March.*

FORMATION.

Centre ſquadron wheels to the right about, the ſquadrons on the right file from the left to to the rear, thoſe on left, file from the right to the front form an open column on the centre or given ſquadron to that ſame front it has taken.

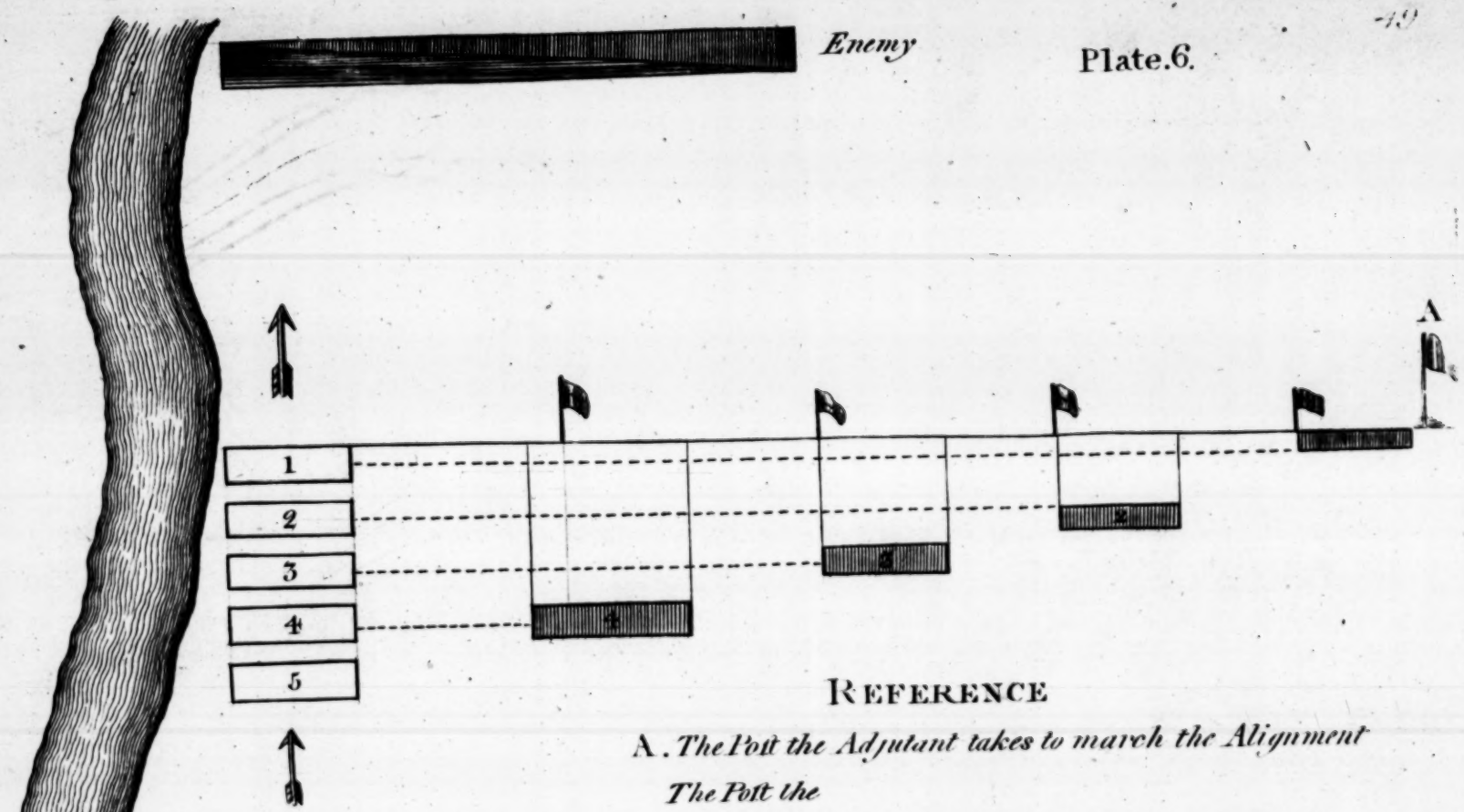
The ſergeants as uſual mark the ground their reſpective ſquadrons are to form on.

On obſerving the explanatory plate (the fourth) the reader will ſee an other deployment—it will be on the leading ſquadron; for the bad ground on the right renders it impoſſible for the line to be formed on any other ſquadron: this deployment is on the ſame principle as that of the third example; with the difference of the leading, inſtead of the rear ſquadron for the point of *Apui.*

A cloſe column ſometimes may be required to open itſelf in order to co-operate with an other column. The operation is extremely ſimple, it is only halting in ſucceſſion the rear diviſions of the column, till the interval betwixt each is as large as double the length of the front rank of diviſion.

Of

Plate.6.



REFERENCE

A. *The Post the Adjutant takes to march the Alignment*

The Post the

The Post the

Of the Movement in Echellon.

EXAMPLE V.

Echellons are formed on a flank advanced or on the centre advanced, alſo by wheeling the rear ſquadrons of the open column an eighth of the circle; which is commonly called half wheel, in order to form the line to the ſame front the column was marching to, as will be ſhewn in the following example.

Suppoſe the open column, with the right in front is ordered to form the line, to that front: the officer commanding it having firſt halted, it gives the word to all the ſquadrons except the leading one, to

Half Wheel to the Left. *March.*

At the word *left*, the flank men of the rear ſquadron advance, and place themſelves, and at the ſame time dreſs in as perfect a line as poſſible, on the ſpot where the right flank is to halt at, on the completion of the half-wheel. (See the plate, fig. 1.) At the word *march*, they complete the wheel. Each officer halting his ſquadron, which done, the officer commanding gives the word

Form Line.

When each ſquadron moves up into line, in the ſame direction as the darts and dotted lines are drawn.

It is however proper to remark, that this formation when done well, is as fine a movement as can be; but if ill, and irregularly done, is altogether as ugly and confuſed. It depends on the attention of the officers commanding ſquadrons—They ſhould when almoſt up to the new alinement (Vide fig. 2. of the ſame Plate.) ſquare their ſquadrons to the front, by bringing up the ſhoulders, which are obliqued to the rear; in this movement, it would be the left ſhoulders; the officer ſhould therefore order,

Left Shoulders forward.

At the ſame time the right flanker ſhould advance to the front, and dreſs himſelf by the right, on the ſquadron on his right, and ſhould there wait. The officer who, when the column took the echellon form, ſhould have advanced and placed himſelf in the front of the third file from the right, now goes on the right flank, taking care however to go alſo on the outſide, or right of the flanker who firſt advanced at the point of alinement; and looking to the left, halts his ſquadron juſt as the left flank covers the left point of formation,

or

or point of apui, which is denoted by the camp colour B.

The echellon with one flank advanced will be more eaſily explained by the references to the firſt figure in the plate.

Fig. II. is the echellon with the centre advanced. The lines A B and C D are to ſhew the formation in potence, which may afterwards be taken by wheeling the right wing to the right, and the left to the left.

Of the Counter March.

Lines, columns, and diviſions of columns, whether open or cloſe, may be counter marched.

A line may be counter marched, from either flank, or on the centre, either in file or by any other diviſion, or telling of it; the principle of the movement is always the ſame.

To counter march the line of ſquadron by files from the right, is nothing more than the operation of filing round to the rear, keeping cloſe to the croups of the rear ranks horſe, till

the right flank is on the ground where the left ſtood, and then turning the horſes head to the left, the front is changed, and the movement completed, the principle as before obſerved, is preciſely the ſame when done either by fours or quarter ranks. The counter march of the line on its center is a more complicated buſineſs, and is thus done:

Make the centre ſquadron wheel on its own centre, which is done as follows.

The right half ſquadron trots forward about the length of half its front rank, this gives the left half ſquadron room to wheel to the right about; the right half at the ſame time wheels to the left about, and then trots up and dreſſes by the left, on the left half ſquadron. This changes the front of the centre ſquadron on the ſame ground it firſt occupied. The right wing then files from his left, to the left; when the leading file has gone far enough, ſo as to take his proper diſtance from the centre ſquadron, by being ordered to form to the left about, he reverſes his front, and will occupy the ſame ground which the right flanker of the left wing has juſt quitted. The left wing will be under the neceſſity of advancing to the front, ſo as to clear the right, and not interrupt him in his filing, and will then file from his right, and by reverſing his front, place his right flanker on the ground previouſly

previouſly occupied by the left flanker of the right wing. The plate will explain what more may be wanting.

The counter march of the column when open, is done by making the rear ſquadrons in ſucceſſion from the rear, oblique by the pivot flank, till the oppoſite one is quite clear of the column, then moving ſtraight forwards to the front.

In cloſe column the alternate ſquadrons, ſuch as the 2d and 4th, move out of the column, and when clear, all counter march to the pivot on their own ground, thoſe that moved out to make room, filing again into column.

The open column when attacked in the rear, may be counter marched by diviſions; that is, each diviſion of it counter marching on its own ground to the pivot, the pivot flankers reverſing their front.

Inſtructions for Officers leading Squadrons on a Field Day.

When in two ſquadrons.

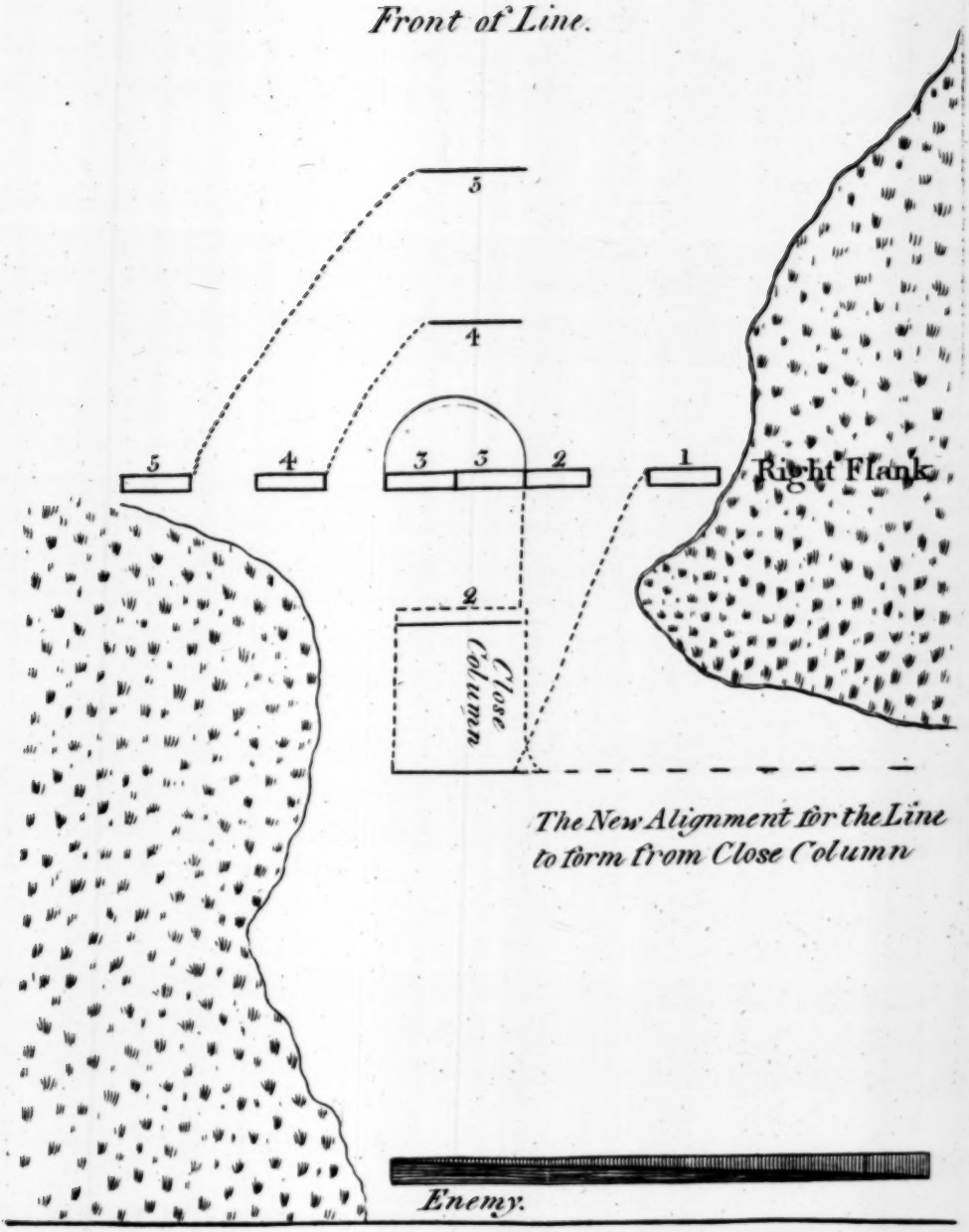
EACH ſquadron is led by an officer, who, when there are beſides himſelf, four or more officers, is not to take the command of a quarter rank, but always to remain, when the ſquadron is in column of files, quarter rank or any other telling, on the flank; when in line, immediately before the ſtandard advanced two horſes lengths.

Particular attention of the Commanding Officer of ſquadron, when in file or column.

He will obſerve the reaſon for his being on the flank of the ſquadron, when in the above mentioned ſituations, is when in file, to make the front and rear rank ride together in a perfect dreſs, making the files *gradually*, not by *ſudden movements*, take up their proper diſtance from each other; when they are halted, or the pace altered, from the gallop to the trot, or from the trot to walk, retain their horſes, and bring them to the pace ordered; and at the halt make each file perfectly *ſteady*, and in the *niceſt* accuracy of covering. He muſt alſo, when the ſquadron is filing either to the front or rear,

Commanding officer's poſt in file or column.

Plate. 7.



NB. The Right Squadrons Form by the Left & the Left by the Right or Else the Rear Ranks will be in Front.

rear, ride on the inſide flank, that is having a ſquadron on his right, and on his left, keeping however pretty cloſe to his own ſquadron: he is placed in this ſituation in order to aſſiſt the leading file in preſerving the proper interval.

Commanding-officer's particular attention to the formation from file to line.

When the ſquadron is ordered to form the line from file, he muſt make each file form in ſucceſſion, and come determinedly up to his ground, without *paſſaging* his horſe; to effect which each man ſhould make his horſe form a ſmall ſection of the circle, by going a little to the rear of the file who form immediately before him, and then turning his horſe, either to the right or left, as may be required, come ſtraight into his place.

His attention when the ſquadron is in column of quarter rank, &c.

When the ſquadron is in column of quarter ranks, the commanding officer ſhould make the officers of his ſquadron commanding them, cover to the pivot flank, preſerve their proper diſtance from others, and keep their men all dreſſed to the pivot: He ſhould alſo caution the officer who commands the leading quarter ranks not to cloſe, or fly from column of direction: in ſhort, his buſineſs is to be conſtantly correcting ſuch errors as he may perceive in his ſquadron.

When in line.

The movement of a line of ſquadrons, whether

whether two, four, or twenty, depends intirely on the officers who command them. They muſt be at all times in a perfect alinement with the officer who commands the ſquadron of direction; on them depends alſo the preſervation of the interval. The men of the ſquadron have nothing to do but to look to the centre of the ſquadron they belong, to keep it ſolid, and to make the *centre file* always *follow the officer who* commands the ſquadron.

But however to aſſiſt the commanding officer in the preſervation of the interval, he may place an officer on his inward flank, who may occaſionally caſt his eye to the ſquadron next to him, and humour the movement by calling right, or left, as may be required, at the ſame time cautioning the men, by ſaying, "right (or left) legs to your horſe," according to the hand you will throw the ſquadron to.

Uniformity of pace abſolutely neceſſary.

The officers are alſo deſired to obſerve, that the uniformity of pace muſt be attended to: the gallop, trot, and walk, are three diſtinct paces, no man, therefore, can be ſuffered to go any pace, but the one ordered; in charging, the officer will recollect, that there is the *quick gallop* and

and the *canter*, the canter is the pace to begin at, nor ſhould it be increaſed without particular orders. The officer muſt not daſh forwards, and then check his horſe, he ſhould keep rather in the rear of the ſquadron of direction, and regulate his pace by it.

CONCLUSION.

WITH endeavouring to ſhew the method of ſearching a country, as recommended by a French writer *, the author of this work will take his leave; ſhould it be approved of by his brother officers, he will no longer call the few half hours he ſpent in forming it, idle ones. Each movement in the book he has ſeen practiſed by thoſe officers under whom he has ſerved, and he has, as near as his recollection, with the aſſiſtance of a few memorandums would permit, related the method practiſed by them.

How to Search a Country, or to protect the March of a Column.

When a column is ordered to march through a country, which is ſo near the enemy as to cauſe apprehenſions for the ſafety of it; the officer would moſt likely order a detachment of cavalry to protect the head,

* Drummond, ſur la Cavalerie.

and

and may be alſo the flanks of his column. Therefore, of the formation of the detachment for the protection of the head of the column, we are about to treat of, and the method recommended by Monſ. Drummond, the writer alluded to, appears to be the moſt eligible.

The main body detachment ſhould be ſo far advanced in the front of the column, as not to draw the ſhot of the enemy upon it; I ſay the *main body*, for Drummond's formation is divided into ſeveral parties, each ſtronger as they are nearer the column, in order to ſupport each other by advancing or retreating as may be required.

Thus the men who are moſt advanced ſhould be ſingly diſperſed, a la debandade, as the French ſtile it. Huſſars and light dragoons are the moſt proper for this poſt: in their rear ſhould be ſeveral parties of four men together, with large intervals between each, and again, in the rear of theſe larger bodies, till at length the main body of the detachment which is to ſupport the whole.

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